

3.0 Water Right Management Recommendations

The management of a water right must include a general understanding of those requirements associated with the appropriation of water in Nevada. The general elements of this process are discussed in previous sections of this report. Details on specific dates and filing requirements for Esmeralda County (County) water rights are included on table 2.0. County owned water right conditions such as manner and place of use information are provided in Appendix A and B. Following is a summary of significant water right conditions and recommendations for consideration by the County in the on-going management of their water rights.

Deviation from any one of the documented conditions/requirements can potentially create a liability of forfeiture of all or a portion of a water right by the State Engineer. To minimize the likelihood that a requirement is overlooked, it is in the best interest of the water right owner to be proactive with requirements and not wait until written notices are issued from DWR. For example, extensions for filing proof of beneficial use are typically good for up to one year and may be anticipated in advance.

Recommendation: Use readily available computer software such as Microsoft Outlook® to schedule automated "reminders" that inform County personnel at least one month in advance of important dates and filing requirements. This software can also compliment spreadsheet databases that may be programmed to trigger annual reviews.

Whether a water right is in the permitting process or has been issued a certificate, the State Engineer may at any time require additional reporting of water use information including pumping records.

Recommendation: Maintaining pumping records is in the best interest of the water right owner in that a current lack of proof of beneficial use can jeopardize almost any water right, making it subject to forfeiture actions.